

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A data storage medium, comprising:

a data unit;  
a control field within the data unit;  
a control block, separate from the data unit; and  
bits within the control field, having a control action specified by the control block.

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2. The data storage medium of claim 1, where the data unit is one of: a sector, an error correction block, and a track.

3. A data storage medium, comprising:

a data unit;  
a control block, the control block specifying at least one control bit in the data unit, and the control block specifying a control action associated with the at least one control bit.

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4. The data storage medium of claim 3, where the data unit is one of: a sector, an error correction block, and a track.

5. A data storage medium, comprising:

a data unit;  
a control field within the data unit; and  
bits within the control field having a control action specified by firmware in a drive reading the data storage medium.

6. The data storage medium of claim 7, where the data unit is one of: a sector, an error correction block, and a track.

7. A method, comprising:

specifying, in a control block, at least one control bit in a data unit; and  
specifying, in the control block, a control action associated with the at least one control bit.

8. A method, comprising:

reading, in a control block, by a drive, an area specifying at least one control bit in a data unit;  
reading, in the control block, by the drive, an area specifying control action associated with the at least one control bit; and  
reading, in the data unit, by the drive, the at least one control bit; and  
conforming, by the drive, to the control action associated with the at least one control bit.